

THE
DECLARATION
OF
Colonell Goring.

To the house of COMMONS,

Together with

Mr Henry Piercies

R. of Shire of North.
LETTER, to the EARLE of
Northumberland.

And Presented to the House of
COMMONS the 16 of June,

1641.

George Starcombe



W. W.

Printed 1641.

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The Declaration of Colonel GORING, to the house of COMMONS.

Together with Master HENRY PIERCIES,
Letter to the Earle of Northumberland,

presented to the Parliament the

26 of June 1641.

It is to be noted that this is the original manuscript of the

same letter which was presented to the Parliament by Sir Philip Halswell,

and is now published for the first time in its original form.

WHAT with my owne innocency, and the violence I hear
is against me, I finde my selfe much distracte, I will not
ask your Counseil, because it may bring prejudice upon
you, but I will with all faithfullnesse and truth tell you what my
part hath bin, that at least it may be cleared by you, whatsoever be-
comes of me.

When there was 50000 £. designed by the Parliament for the English Army, there was as I take it, a sudden demand by the Scots at the same time of 25000 £. of which there was 15000 £. ready, this they pressed with much necessity, as the Parliament, after an order made, did thinke fit for them to deduct 10000 pound out of the 50000 £. formerly granted, upon which, the souldiers in our host were much scandalized, amongst which I was one, and fitting by Wilmot, and Ashburnham, Wilmot stood up and told them, if that of the Scots would procure money, hee doubted not but the Officers of the English Army might easily doe the like, but the first order was reversed, notwithstanding, and 10000 £. giuen to the Scots, this was the cause of many discourses, of dislike amongst us, and came to this purpose, that they were dis-obliged by the Parliament, and not by the King, this being laid often to one another, we did resolve that Wilmot, Ashburnham, Pollard, Oneale, and my self,

to make some expressions of serving the King, in all things he wold command us, that were honourable for him and us, being likowise agreeing unto the fundamentall Lawes of the Kingdome, that so far we would live and dye with him, this agreed upon with us, not having any communication with others, that I am coupled now with all, and further by their joyn't consent, I was to tel his Majestie thus much from them, but withall I was to order the matter so, as the King might apprehend this, as a great seruice done vnto him, at this time, when his affaires were in so ill a condition, and they were most confidant, *that they would engage the whole Army thus far, but further they would undertake nothing, because they would neither infringe the liberties of the subiects, or destroy the Lawes, to which I and every one consented,* and having their sence, I drew the heads up in a paper, to the which they all approved, when I read it, and then wee did by an oath promise one an other to be constant and secret in all this, and did all of us take that oath together, then I said, Well Sirs, I must now be informed what your particular desires are, that so I may be the better able to serve you, which they were pleased to doc, and so I did very faithfully serve them therin, as far as I could: this is the truth, and all the truth upon my soule. In particular discourses, afrer that, *we did fall upon the petitioning to the King and Parlament for monies, there being so great arrears due to us, and so much delayes made in the procuring of them, but that was never done.*

1. Concerning the Bishops functions and votes.
2. The not disbanding of the Irish Army, untill the Scots were disbanded too.
3. The endeavouring to settle his Majesties Revenue to that proportion it was formerly.

And it was resolved by us all, if the King should require our assistance in those things, that as far as we could we might contribute thereunto, without breaking the Lawes of the Kingdome. And in case the King should be denied those things, being put to them, wee would not fly from him, al these persons did act and concur in this as well as I, this being all imparted to the King by me from them, I perceived he had bin treated with by others, concerning some things of our Army, which not agreed with what was purposed by

by me, but inclined a way more sharpe, and high, not having limits either of honour or Law, I told the King he might be pleased to consider with himselfe what should be done, which way it was fit for him to hearken unto, for us we were resolved not to depart from our grounds, wee should not be displeased whosoever they were, but the particular of the designes, or the persons we desired not to know, though it was no hard matter to gessic at them. In the end I believ the danger of the one, the justice of the other made the King tell me he would leave all thoughts of other propositions but ours, as things not practiceable, but desired, notwithstanding that *Goring* and *Jermin*, who were acquainted with the other proceedings should be admitted amongst us, I told him I, though the other Gentry would never consent to it, but I would propose it, which I did, and we were all much against it; but the King did preffe it so much, as at the last it was consented unto, and *Goring* and *Jermin* came to my Chamber, there I was appoynted to tell them after they had sworne to secrecy, what we had proposed, which I did, but before I goe into the debate of the way, I must tell you *Jermin* and *Goring* were very earnest *Suckling* should be admitted, which we did all decline, and was desired by all our men to be resolute in it, which I was, and gave many Reasons: whereupon Master *Goring* made answer, he was enggaed with *Suckling*, his being employed in the Army, but for his meeting with us, they were contented to passe it by. Then we tooke up againe the wayes which were proposed, which tooke great debate, and theirs differed from ours in violence and height, which we all protested against, and parted, disagreeing totally, yet remitted it to be spoken of by me and *Jermin* to the King, which we both did, and the King constant to his former Resolutions told him, these wayes were all vaine and foolish, and would thinke of them no more, I omit one thing of Master *Goring*, he desired to know how the chiefe Commanders were to be disposed off, for if he had not a condition worthy of him, he would not go along with us, we made answer that no body thought of that, we intended if we were sent downe to goe all in the same capacity we were in, he did not like that by no meanes, and that did worke so with Master *Chidley*, that there was a Letter sent by some of the Commanders to make him Lieutenant Generall, and when he had ordered this matter at London, and Master *Chidley* had his instructions, then did he goe to *Portsmouth*, pretending to be absent when this was a working, we all desired my Lord of *Essex* and *Holland*, that if there were a Generall at *Newcastle*, they were pleased to give out a report that I should be Generall of the Horse, but I protest neither to the

King nor any else, did I ever so much as think of it, my Lord of Holland was made Generall, and so all things were layd aside, and this is the truth and all the truth I knew of these proceedings, and this I will and doe protest unto you upon my faith, and *Willm*, *Ashburnham*, and *Oneale* have at severall times confessed and sworne, I never said any thing in the busynesse, they did not every one agree unto and would justifie: this Relation I sent you rather to informe you of the truth of the matter, that you may the better know to doe me good, but I should thinke my selfe very unhappy to be made a betrayer of any body: what concerned the Tower or any thing else, I never medled withall, nor never spake with *Goring*, but that night before them all, and I said nothing but what was consented unto by any party, I never spake one word with *Suckling*, *Carnarvan*, *Davenant*, or any other creature, methinkes if my frends and kindred knew the truth and justice of the matter, it were no hard matter to serve me in some measure.

Colonell Gorings Declaration on his Examination concerning the late Conspiracie against the State.

Having beeene told there was an intention to unite the forces of our Army, and to put it into a posture of being able, if not of purpose of being willing to interpose in the proceedings of Parliaments,

I hearkened to the propositions of solliciting a redress; for the miseries of the Souldiers being the first step to this, in respect of the present necessities of it, not any future consequence of trouble to those, that were to procure our relief.

But lest the manner of asking this or the effect of it, being obtained, might be lefte just, then the thing it self which was desired, & I might be involved their crime, that had further ends, perhaps then merely the settleme of our Armies grievances: I thought it not unsafe to take some witnessesse of mine integritie along with me, and spoke to a noble Lord the very same day when I assited him there were some Officers of the Army, that were least thought on, that had greatest zeale to the proceedings of this House, & I thought there would be an occasion to let him know more of it: within few dayes after, this Master *Jermin* and I being admitted into a Consultation, where we were tyed to secrecy by an Oath, in the company of those Gentlemen I have named in my Depositions, where their purpose was declared to us in som Propostions, which were to this effect,

1. First putting our Army into a posture to serve the King.
2. Secondly sending a Declaration to the Parliament, containing that no Act of Parliament should be made contrary to any former Act, which was expressed that Episcopacie would be kept up as it is now.

3. Thirdly, and that the Kings Revenue should be established.

This I thought unlawfull for our undertakings, since I thought they intended to interpose the determinations of this House, and it belongs to an Armie, to maintaine, not to contrive Acts of State.

I objected therefore against the propositions, and pressed more the follies and difficulties, then the illegalities of them, not onely because I thought reason a greater Argument with them then Conscience, but because I am so unhappy of the two, 2 be thought a worse Commonwealth's man, then a Souldier, and in that quality could procure most credit to my words, and I endeavoured to shew them that as the Designe wou'd be impious, if their most desperate Counsell had beene followed, so it would have beene the weakest that ever was undertaken, if it were admitted.

And whereas I am said to have a part in this violent Counsell; till the day before this meeting, I never heard word of it, & knew not when I came to the Roonie, whether theirs were not the same with the other, this they may witnesse for me, and that I declared, that I wou'd have to doe with neither, and that I expressed a contempt in our meeting in that manner, but I relie upon the Testimony of some noble Lords of his Majesties Counsell, and others, how I protested against all those violent Counsells, even in the birth of them, and with what pitty I looked towards the person of his Majesty, and the whole Kingdome in this busynesse.

I appeale also to them, and to some members of this House, what my carriage was toward these Gentlemen, that were embarked in these undertakings, intending rather to prevent a mischiefe, by abandoning their Counsells, then to ruine them, by disclosing them: but mistake me not, for had I knowne of any former plot proceeded in, that would endanger or disturbe the quiet of his Majesty, or the peace of this Kingdome, I should not have beene contented with declaring mine owne innocencie, nor have stayd till the command of this House, or an Oath extorted from me, a discovery: but by a hasty open Declaration, have broken the bonds of amity, and friendship, and all former tyes, to preserve the duty of a Subject, and as freely exposed the knowledge of all to the view of the world, as I have beene tender in publishing these purposes, even to my nearest friends, which had weight enough to crush nothing but the undertakers of it, and certainly if they had stayd where I left them, there was no conclusion at all. It appeares there were two severall intentions digested by others, before they were Communicated to me; And I knew not whether my haiking to them were a fault, but I am sure it was no misfortune.

and the author's name is given as "John Smith". The page contains several lines of handwritten text, which appear to be a transcription or summary of a larger document. The handwriting is somewhat faded and difficult to read in some areas, particularly towards the bottom of the page.